

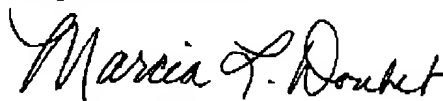
REMARKS

Claims 7, 9, 11 - 16, 23, 25, 27 - 32, 39, 41, and 43 - 48 have been amended. No new matter is introduced with these amendments, all of which are supported in the specification as originally filed. Claims 8, 10, 24, 26, 40, and 42 have been cancelled from the application without prejudice. Claims 7, 9, 11 - 16, 23, 25, 27 - 32, 39, 41, and 43 - 48 are now in the application.

The Office Action dated December 2, 2005 (hereinafter, "the Office Action") states, in Item 7 of the Office Action Summary, that Claims 10, 13, 15, 26, 29, 31, 42, 45, and 47 are objected to. The limitations from Claims 10, 26, and 42 have been incorporated into independent Claims 7, 23, and 39, along with the claim limitations from intervening dependent Claims 8, 24, and 40. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that independent Claims 7, 23, and 39 are now in condition for allowance.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending rejected claims, withdrawal of all presently outstanding rejections, and allowance of all remaining claims at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,



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Serial No. 09/611,157

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